

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 4, 1947

MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Proposal that GPO Publish "Broadcasting Stations of the World" Series.

1. Subject publications list all known broadcasting stations according to frequency or location, together with call letters, ownership and power of the respective transmitters. Such compilations are valuable for reference or research in various offices of the departments of State, National Defense and Commerce, and essential to the work of [redacted] and the Federal Communications Commission. They are also of value to certain private individuals and organizations, such as radio listening fans and manufacturers of radio equipment.

2. The preparation of these listings was assigned to [redacted] by the Federal Communications Commission, when this Branch was under [redacted] administration. Copies of the publications were mailed to government offices and private individuals or firms upon request. During the past year it has been CIA policy to make non-governmental distribution contingent upon reciprocal advantage to the Agency. In general, this policy admits radio listening fans but excludes manufacturers of radio parts and other business concerns. Similar data, though less complete and up-to-date, is available to the public in the Barnes lists and in publications of radio clubs.

3. Some months ago [redacted] of the OOD investigated the practicality of turning over to the Government Printing Office the publication and non-governmental distribution of the series with a view to the fact that general advertisement might raise the number of required copies from the present 300 to the neighborhood of 5000 per issue. GPO, regarding this as a "small order", estimated the cost to CIA at approximately \$6,000 per year for two issues of each of three 150-page publications. This figure, and the fact that there would be some inconvenience to [redacted] in the time lag between preparation and publication and in the necessity for submitting the material to GPO in good form, and without last-minute revision, resulted in dropping the proposal.

4. It is the recommendation of this office that publication of the series be continued as at present, and that if there is doubt as to the advisability of discriminating against certain requests for copies, reversion be made to the policy of complying with all requests without regard to agency advantage. Past experience has been that such a policy increases distribution by less 100 copies per issue. ORIGINAL CL BY [redacted] 8/8/31

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Chief, [redacted]

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